

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of Examiner's rejection of claims 1 - 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Examiner has rejected these claims in view of the cited prior art reference of Takada et al. (Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-250240). The Takada reference is directed to a dye thermal transfer receiving sheet wherein the retaining force of an adhesive layer is such that there is caused no deviation after a lapse of 24 hours, and the compression modulus of elasticity of the separating sheet base is 1800kg/cm² or less for a thickness of 100um and the sum of the compression modulus of elasticity of the receiving sheet base for a thickness of 100um and the compression modulus of elasticity of the separating sheet base for a thickness of 100um is 2,800 kg/cm² or less. (See the "Solution" of the invention section). The Examiner, in the last office action, cites to paragraph four of the Takada as teaching applicant's invention. The examiner then states that "it would have been obvious matter of design choice to vary the size of the cut portions, since such motivation would have involved a mere change in the size of a component."

Applicants submit that it is unclear what the examiner is referring to when discussing the "size" of a cut portion as being obvious. Applicants submit that there is no such "size" limitation in the current claims.

Applicants invention is directed to the addition of a stress relaxing means formed adjacent to an image receiver material in the feed/eject direction in order to prevent an image receiver material from peeling off while the material is being printed or transported. See for example, the top of page 4 of applicant's disclosure, which states that prior art devices had a

problem that the image carrying area would tend to peel off during printing and cause such problems as choking the manufacturing devices and preventing further printing until the devices were serviced. See Figure 3 of Applicant's invention, which shows a stress relieving means 10 formed a predetermined distance in head of the half cut 12. Prior art devices without the stress relieving means 10 would tend to cause the image forming region between the two half cuts 12 to peel off while the media was being transported around transport roll 13.

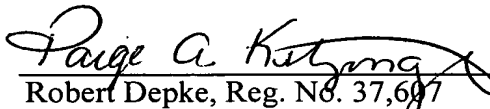
Applicant's invention is directed to solving this problem by providing a stress relieving means formed adjacent a half-cut of an image-forming area in the feed/eject direction in order to reduce the occurrence of such peel offs. Nothing in the Takada reference teaches or suggests such an invention. Applicants respectfully request that if the Examiner wishes to maintain the rejection under the Takada reference, that he lay out where each and every limitation of the current claims are found in the Takada reference.

Examiner's remaining references cited but not relied upon, considered either alone or in combination, also fail to teach applicant's currently claimed invention. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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